

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2004

**CONTACT:** Travis Linquist 916/445-5566

## VENTURA COUNTY RESIDENT DEDICATED TO PUBLIC SAFETY NEEDS IN HER COMMUNITY

Safe Corps Member Commits Her Time to Serving Her Community

**SACRAMENTO** - The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) *Spotlight* features Lela Diaz, a California Safe Corps member from Ventura. For the past 11 months, Ms. Diaz has been working to improve public safety for the residents of Ventura County.

In less than one year, Ms. Diaz helped to establish 5 high school on-campus Red Cross clubs. These clubs have recruited over 150 active teens, including strong and enthusiastic team leaders to ensure their continued success. Ms. Diaz serves as a resource to the clubs and helps them coordinate monthly service projects, one of which was to distribute smoke detectors to 3,628 low income and senior community residents.

Ms. Diaz also played a vital role during the 2003 Southern California wildfires. She served for five weeks helping to provide and maintain Red Cross services to the public. She located temporary housing for those people whose homes had been destroyed in the fires and provided Spanish/English translation.

"Lela recognizes the public safety needs in her community," Interim Executive Director of GO SERV, David Muraki said. "She has committed her time to address those problems and involved the youth of Ventura County to increase the impact of their activities."

The weekly GO SERV Spotlight recognizes people and programs making a difference in their communities through service and volunteerism.